

[in the news](#)[home](#) [site search](#) [org chart](#) [contact us](#) [web comments](#)

A PUBLICATION FROM THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

Journal

[Click here for past Journals.](#)

February 1996



Salem Electric to purchase green power from BPA

The board of directors of the Salem Electric Cooperative in Salem, Oregon, voted unanimously to purchase seven average megawatts of renewable energy from BPA each year for the next five years. This is about 17 percent of the utility's projected load for 1996 and is priced at 3.5 cents per kilowatt hour. Renewable energy or "green power" is electricity generated by non-polluting, environmentally acceptable, sustainable energy sources. BPA's renewable energy will come from resources such as wind and geothermal power. Salem Electric set a goal to have 17 percent of its load served by green power and had planned to issue a request for proposals. Instead, the board chose BPA's proposal and canceled the RFP. Most of Salem Electric's load is served by BPA at the priority firm rate. BPA and Salem Electric plan to pursue a longer-term agreement to take effect after the five-year period of this agreement.

BPA offers education grants

BPA invites schools and community groups within its service territory of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Western Montana to submit applications to fund innovative education projects or programs at the kindergarten to high school level. BPA has reserved \$50,000 to fund its Community Education Grant Program and will award individual grants of up to \$10,000. BPA is targeting 1996 grants to projects that have

1. community sponsors and/or funding partners;
2. contribute to the economy and quality of life in BPA's service territory; and
3. will have demonstrable results within the first year. Preference will be given to projects relating to energy, fish and wildlife, and conservation education.

Guidelines and application forms for BPA's Community Education Grant Program are now available by calling BPA's document request line listed on the back page. Applications are due by March 15, 1996.

BPA releases White Book

Early this month, BPA will release its Pacific Northwest Loads and Resources Study, commonly known as the White Book. The White Book shows a power surplus on BPA's system through operating year 2000. In 2001, the study shows a small deficit. In 2002 and beyond, the direct-service industrial loads were reduced to show the federal system in loads and resources balance. This is a placeholder based on the fact that BPA has no commitment to serve direct-service industrial load after 2001. The White Book reflects new constraints on the hydroelectric system from the 1995 Biological Opinion issued in March 1995 by the National Marine Fisheries Service as part of its draft Recovery Plan for endangered salmon. The Biological Opinion dramatically changed the operation of the hydroelectric system and BPA has accordingly revised how much firm power the federal hydroelectric system can produce. The study also reflects changes in BPA's expected loads due to customer choices and BPA power resource cuts over the last year. BPA received comments on the draft White Book, released in early December, from preference customers and direct-service industry customers. BPA considered all comments and made appropriate changes to the final White Book. (See back page.)

BPA moves into cyberspace

On Jan. 30, BPA took its next significant step into cyberspace with the unveiling of its first real-time information network accessible over the Internet. The [Transmission Services Information Network](http://www.tsin.bpa.gov) at <http://www.tsin.bpa.gov> helps meet federal requirements that call for open access to transmission grids for all marketers of bulk power. Power marketers who establish an agreement with BPA can schedule transmission using TSIN through an Internet connection. The network provides information on transmission capacity, availability and price. The network is currently handling requests from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pacific Standard Time. By October it will be a 24-hour operation. PacifiCorp has had a similar Internet network operating four months and several other Northwest utilities are readying theirs. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hopes greater accessibility to such transmission information and the grids themselves will lead to lower electricity prices for consumers. BPA has been on the Internet since last October. The [BPA home page](http://www.bpa.gov) at <http://www.bpa.gov> is a source for information about the agency, its projects, products and services, including an electronic version of the BPA Journal.

Why BPA sells surplus power

This year is shaping up to be the first above average water year on the Columbia River system in a

decade. Early streamflow forecasts predict runoff over 110 percent of average. As a result, BPA has been marketing large amounts of surplus power in the Pacific Northwest and California. BPA has been selling the power at short-term surplus market rates that are below BPA's preference rates. BPA's revenues from these sales have been increased through BPA's new electric trading floor bringing together current West Coast electricity market conditions and short-term weather and streamflow projections to develop a daily BPA marketing strategy to buy and sell power. The surplus power revenues help to keep BPA rates competitive by increasing overall revenues. The surplus sales help to offset BPA's recent loss of customer load. Above average water conditions allow BPA to bring in greater than expected revenues, assuming all other factors remain as expected. These unplanned revenues increase BPA's ability to make its scheduled payments to the U.S. Treasury. BPA may also use these revenues to create reserves for future contingencies. BPA sets its rates based on average water conditions. In the past, under above average water conditions, BPA has sold surplus power in the Pacific Northwest and California. At press time, streamflows have frozen and loads have risen about 12 percent due to extreme cold weather conditions throughout the region. Consequently, BPA is currently out of the surplus market.

Supply System selects new director

Vic Parrish, current vice president of nuclear operations at the Washington Public Power Supply System, will be the new managing director effective Feb. 2. The supply system executive board announced Parrish will succeed William G. Council, who will remain with the supply system to work on a proposal to use mixed-oxide fuel at Washington Nuclear Plant 2. The proposal calls for using weapons-grade plutonium that has been stockpiled throughout the nation, mixing it with uranium and burning the fuel at WNP-2.

Council and Parrish have worked together to cut costs and improve operations at WNP-2. The supply system 1996 WNP-2 annual budget is projected to be \$210 million, down from \$275 million in 1992. The supply system also reports that 1995 was the second best year for electrical generation and plant reliability at WNP-2. The plant's actual net generation of 6.9 million megawatt-hours of electricity during 1995 was second only to the 7.1 million net megawatt-hours generated in 1993. Overall reliability also improved as reflected in an 80 percent capability factor for 1995, up from 72.3 percent in 1994. Capability factor refers to the ratio of energy that could have been produced to the amount of energy produced if the plant operated continuously at full capacity. The power generated at WNP-2 is transmitted to BPA which in turn supplies that power to its customers.

Power system update

Precipitation above The Dalles Dam was 124 percent of average as of Jan. 23. This followed precipitation for the month of December that was 106 percent of average. The forecast is for colder temperatures with below average precipitation for the last week of January. December streamflows were 238 percent of average for the month, setting a new 68 year monthly record for the second month in a row. Streamflows at The Dalles have not been below normal since the first week in November. January flows at The Dalles are projected to be 158 percent of average. The mid-January through July volume runoff forecast is 145 cubic kilometers (118 million acre-feet) or 111 percent of average.

Federal system storage was 66 percent full on Jan. 25 and 39 percent full on the same date in 1995. The surplus and non-firm market continues to be weak due to mild weather conditions in the Pacific Northwest and California. Additionally, inertia capacity is limited due to wind damage. The hydroelectric system is being

operated to position storage reservoirs for the winter firm loads and spring flood control, and to make non-firm sales in advantageous market conditions.

Columbia River power system environmental study released

The final report of the System Operation Review, an environmental impact study of the Federal Columbia River Power system, has been jointly released by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation and BPA. The purpose of the review was to identify a long-term system operating strategy to guide operation of the 14 Federal hydroelectric power projects and to develop a forum that would allow interested parties, other than the federal agencies, a long-term role in system planning. Another goal of the review was to provide the environmental analysis required for the federal agencies to sign new agreements for coordinating power generation and for allocating, among federal and non-federal parties, the return of the Canadian entitlement power to Canada. Canadian entitlement power is based on the Columbia River treaty and refers to Canada's 50 percent share of the increase in energy and capacity resulting from three Canadian reservoirs and Libby Dam in Montana. The release of the final EIS will be followed by a 30-day no-action period. The three agencies may then publish one or more records of decision describing actions which affect river operation and are based on the System Operation Review's final environmental impact study. (See back page.)

Public Involvement

STATUS REPORTS

1996 Rate Case. On January 26, the rate case parties responded to BPA's Supplemental Rate Proposal filed on Dec. 8. The Supplemental Rate Proposal includes additional information and changes to the Initial Rate Proposal that was filed July 10. The Dec. 8 filing also included rebuttal testimony and the rate case parties' direct case on BPA's Revised Segmentation Study and Revised Rates Analysis Model. Also on Jan. 26, BPA filed a Revised Repayment Study and responded to the parties' direct case on the Revised Repayment Study and Revised Rates Analysis Model.

Albeni Falls Wildlife Management Plan/EA. Work on the EA is progressing and the preliminary draft should be available in early Feb. Call to reserve your copy.

Anderson Ranch Wildlife Management Plan/EA. Initial work on the EA has begun. Anticipate the preliminary draft in mid-March. Call to be added to the project mailing list.

BPA's Business Plan. Two new RODs are available: one on the Firm Non-Requirements Products and Services Contracts and one on the Short-Term Marketing and Operating Arrangements. Call for copies.

Canadian Entitlement. The Final EIS (#2473) is available. Call if you would like a copy. A Record of Decision is expected by March. If you would like a copy, please add your name to the mail list.

Columbia Windfarm #1 Project. The ROD is on hold until further notice.

Comprehensive Review of the Northwest Energy System

(Regional Review). The Steering Committee has met three times so far and is currently determining which aspects of transition are inevitable and which can be shaped by regional events. For information, please call the Northwest Power Planning Council's Public Affairs office at 1-800-3355 or E-mail

comments to @nwppc.org. Visit the [Comprehensive Review Home Page](http://newsdata.com/enernet/review/review.html) at <http://newsdata.com/enernet/review/review.html>.

Firm Resource Exhibit Submittals (White Book). The final 1995 White Book and two technical appendices will be issued in early Feb., with final submittal of FREs by utilities on Feb. 15.

Hood River Fisheries Project. The draft EIS is expected this month. BPA is planning to hold two public meetings in March, toward the end of the comment period. Call to be added to the mail list.

KENETECH/PacifiCorp Windpower Project. BPA expects to issue a ROD after the USFWS finalizes the Biological Opinion. Call to get on the mail list.

Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery EIS. The draft EIS is expected at the end of March.

Sierra Pacific Power Co. Alturas Transmission Line Project. The ROD will be released this month. Call to reserve a copy.

System Operation Review. The Final EIS was distributed in Jan. A Streamline (#2582) addressing the final EIS and its alternatives was also mailed. If you have not already requested copies, please call the numbers below to receive the Streamline, final EIS and related appendices.

Vancouver Lowlands Columbia River Wildlife Mitigation Project EIS. The proposed action in this EIS is for BPA to fund the acquisition of lands by Wash. Department of Fish and Wildlife. WDF&W would conduct wildlife and wildlife habitat management activities in the Vancouver Lowlands, Vancouver, Wash. Call to be added to the mail list

Washington Wildlife Mitigation Trust Projects Programmatic EA. This EA covers approximately five proposed mitigation sites within the Columbia River Basin. BPA's action would be limited solely to providing funds to the Wash. Department of Fish and Wildlife. A draft EA is expected out in early March. Call to be added to the mail list.

Washington Windplant #1 Project. The ROD is on hold until further notice.

Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS. The draft EIS is scheduled for publication in March. Call to be added to the mail list.

Yakima Fisheries Project EIS. The Final EIS (#2784) is available. A summary (#2783) of the Final EIS is also available. Call the numbers below for copies.

Calendar of Events

Regional Review: **Feb. 1, Feb. 15, Feb. 29, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**, Airport Sheraton, Portland, Ore. Sponsored by the Northwest Power Planning Council.

FY97 Residential Exchange Program Payments: **Feb. 7, 9 a.m.-12 noon**, Rates Hearing Room B (Lloyd Center, Level 3) Portland, Ore.

Excess Federal Power Statute Implementation Process: **Mar. 22, 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon**, Lloyd Center Red Lion, Portland, Ore.; **Mar. 25, 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon**, Marriott Hotel, San Francisco, Calif.

Acronyms:

EA: Environmental Assessment

EIS: Environmental Impact Statement

FONSI: Finding of No Significant Impact

ROD: Record of Decision

Editor's Note

The *Journal* is making every effort to keep you informed of all the issues facing BPA. The *Journal* is available on the Internet at <http://www.bpa.gov/Corporate/KC/home/journal/>

We welcome all comments from you at Journal-CKC, Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, OR 97208-3621 or enballa@bpa.gov.

For More Information or To Get Involved:

The *Journal* is a monthly newsletter of the Bonneville Power Administration for customers and interested publics. **To order documents:** call 800-622-4520 or 230-3478 (Portland) or [click here](#).

For questions/comments: call 230-3478 (Portland) or 800-622-4519, or E-mail to comment@bpa.gov. Address comments to: P.O. Box 12999, Portland, OR 97212.

BPA Offices:

Boise - 208-334-9137

Missoula - 406-329-3060

Seattle - 206-216-4272

Spokane - 509-353-2515

Walla Walla - 509-527-6225

Washington, D.C. - 202-586-5640

Vancouver, Wash. - 360-418-8600

The *Journal* is edited by Nicia Balla, BPA Corporate Communications, enballa@bpa.gov.

The Public Involvement section is compiled by Jean Pennington, BPA Corporate Communications, japennington@bpa.gov.

The Web page version of the *Journal* is maintained by BPA Corporate Communications, intcomm@bpa.gov.
